

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 to 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (New) Paint reservoir system for a paint spray gun including

an open top container and a cover having a spout that can be set on the container to close the top, the spout of said cover being mountable on a paint spray gun for gravity feed of the paint from the container to the spray gun;

a first through member sealed by a readily puncturable membrane is formed integrally in a wall of the container for establishing a sealed but readily puncturable ventilation opening; said membrane consisting of a material with one of (i) a lower strength than the material of the container wall and (ii) a smaller thickness than the container wall;

a second member being slidably receivable in said first through member and having a tapered forward end that can puncture said membrane and an enlarged rear end that can engage the first through member; said second member being positionable in said first through member in a first position in which the membrane has been punctured and the second member forms an airtight seal with the first through member, and in a second position in which the membrane is punctured, the second member is partially withdrawn from said first through member and an air passage is formed between the first and second members enabling air relief of the container.

Claim 17 (New) Paint reservoir system according to Claim 16 wherein the first through

member has a forward end and a rear end is integrally formed with the bottom of the container and is in the form of a through tubular cylinder essentially perpendicular to the bottom of the container.

Claim 18 (New) Paint reservoir system according to Claim 17 wherein the forward end of the tubular cylinder projects into the interior of the container and the membrane seals the rear end of the tubular cylinder.

Claim 19 (New) In a paint reservoir system for a paint spray gun including a flow reservoir composed of an open top container for paint closed by a cover having a spout for mounting the system on a paint spray gun for gravity feed of the paint from the container to the spray gun and a device for ventilating the container during gravity feed of the paint to the spray gun, the improvement wherein the ventilation device comprises in combination

(a) a tubular cylinder having a central axis, an outer surface and an inner surface that bounds and defines an interior space having a preselected cross section and shape,

(b) said tubular cylinder integrally formed with a wall of the container with its central axis essentially perpendicular to the container wall and defining a passageway through said wall,

(c) a readily puncturable membrane integrally formed to seal the passageway through the tubular cylinder in a liquid-tight manner, and

(d) a member readily detachably mounted on the paint reservoir system for forming a ventilation opening through said puncturable membrane,

(e) said member having a forward end configured to puncture through the membrane and a rear end for engaging the tubular cylinder; said member being shaped to define a ventilation opening between its ends,

(f) said inner surface of said tubular cylinder providing a guidance surface for the member,

(g) whereby when the member is detached from said paint reservoir system and inserted into the tubular cylinder, the forward end of the member engages the inner surface of the tubular cylinder and is positively guided by said guidance surface to puncture said membrane, and thereafter, to reside normally at rest in said tubular cylinder in one of two stable positions, (i) in a first stable position to be partially withdrawn to enable ventilation of the container, and (ii) in a second stable position with the member in liquid-tight engagement with the tubular cylinder.

Claim 20 (New) In a paint reservoir system according to Claim 19 wherein the second member is a pointed tool detachably mounted to the cover by a tear-off bracket.